

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU03/00960

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: A01K 11/00, G01N 1/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
DWPI and keywords (ear tag A01K 11/- G01N 1/08 label gene biolog dna specimen tissue container collect receiv
chamber reservoir space housing sampl capsule frangible perforat cut stamp punch transponder and like terms)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, A	WO 2003037075 A1 (REYFLEX et al) 8 May 2003	
P, A	WO 2003034815 A1 (REYFLEX et al) 1 May 2003	
P, A	WO 200278431 A2 (H. HAUPTNER UND RICHARD HERBERHOLZ GMBH & CO KG) 10 October 2002	
A	WO 02/39810 A2 (CAISLEY) 23 May 2002	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 5 September 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report 10 SEP 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer JAGDISH BOKIL Telephone No : (02) 6283 2371

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 20101015 U1 (AGROBIOGEN GMBH BIOTECHNOLOGIE) 7 February 2002	
A	DE 20022647 U1 (BIOPSYTEC GMBH) 24 January 2002	
A	EP 1060662 A1 (PRAGMATIC NETWORKS CREATION ETS) 20 December 2000	

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos :
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos :
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos :
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See extra sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: II

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1-17 are directed to a sampling device characterised by a male portion, female portion and a sample removal means being provided with an amount of sample preservative or preservative that is available to the sample within a sample receiving space. It is considered that the underlined feature comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claims 18-20 are directed to a sampling device characterised by a male portion comprising a base and an upstanding member and a female portion comprising a first female base portion and a cap including a resilient ring retained therebetween to prevent and/or detect tampering. It is considered that the underlined feature comprises a second "special technical feature".

These groups are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, that is, they do not have any common inventive features, which define a contribution over the prior art. The common concept linking together these groups of claims is providing a sampling and tagging system simultaneously. However this concept is not novel in the light of any of the citations listed in this search report. Therefore these claims lack unity a posteriori.

However all these inventions could be searched together without effort which would warrant an additional fee. Therefore all the inventions have been searched without extra charge.

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Information on patent family members

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member		
WO	2003037075	FR	2831389	FR	2831390
WO	2003034815	FR	2831388		
WO	200239810	AU	200220940		
WO	200278431		NONE		
DE	20101015		NONE		
DE	20022647	DE	10053022		
EP	1060662		NONE		

END OF ANNEX